



RECOVERY BEGINS

Days of rain and floods have transformed the outdoorsy mountain communities in Colorado's Rocky Mountain foothills affectionately known "The Gore-Tex Vortex" from a paradise into a disaster area with little in the way of supplies or services — and more rain falling Sunday.

► PAGE B8

LOCAL



LEGAL ISSUES

Last month, McAllen police arrested a man after they found nude photos of girls who appeared to be younger than 15. But how they found the photos might be unconstitutional, if a state appeals court ruling is adopted statewide.

► PAGE A3

LOCAL

FACING DELAYS

People from other countries seeking government services in the United States may encounter a snag because of a new process to verify their immigration status.

► PAGE A3

OBITUARIES

Adan Marks Jr.
Julian Jaramillo-Puentes
Roberto Salinas
Félix Javier Villanueva Sr.

► PAGE A4

POPULAR ON THE WEB

EDUCATION

The Brownsville Independent School District is hoping the State Board of Education will agree that aerospace engineering should be offered as a CTE Program of Study in high schools statewide.

BrownsvilleHerald.com

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Good Morning!
Thank you for reading today's edition of The Brownsville Herald



HURRICANE INGRID

NO CLASSES

Some schools close campuses; rain outlook lessens

BY GARY LONG
THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Citing student and employee safety, the Brownsville Independent School District canceled classes for today due to expected rainfall from Hurricane Ingrid.

Superintendent Carl A. Montoya said BISD made the decision late Sunday afternoon after talking with the National Weather Service office in Brownsville. Regular district operations were expected to resume on Tuesday.

Montoya said the NWS told BISD it would be

"raining pretty much throughout the day, so we decided the prudent thing would be to shut down." He said some neighborhoods already were reporting "extreme amounts of water" making it difficult to get students to and from school.

IDEA Public Schools in Brownsville came to much the same decision. It said classes and operations were canceled for today at IDEA Brownsville and IDEA Frontier but would resume on Tuesday.

Classes also were canceled for Monday at St. Mary's Catholic School, St.

Luke's Catholic School, Guadalupe Regional Middle School and the Incarnate Word Academy in Brownsville.

St. Joseph Academy, Harmony Science Academy, Livingway Leadership Academy and Jubilee Leadership Academy also canceled classes.

The Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District said classes would be held as scheduled at its 14 schools but that the district would continue to monitor Hurricane Ingrid's progress.

PLEASE SEE INGRID, A8

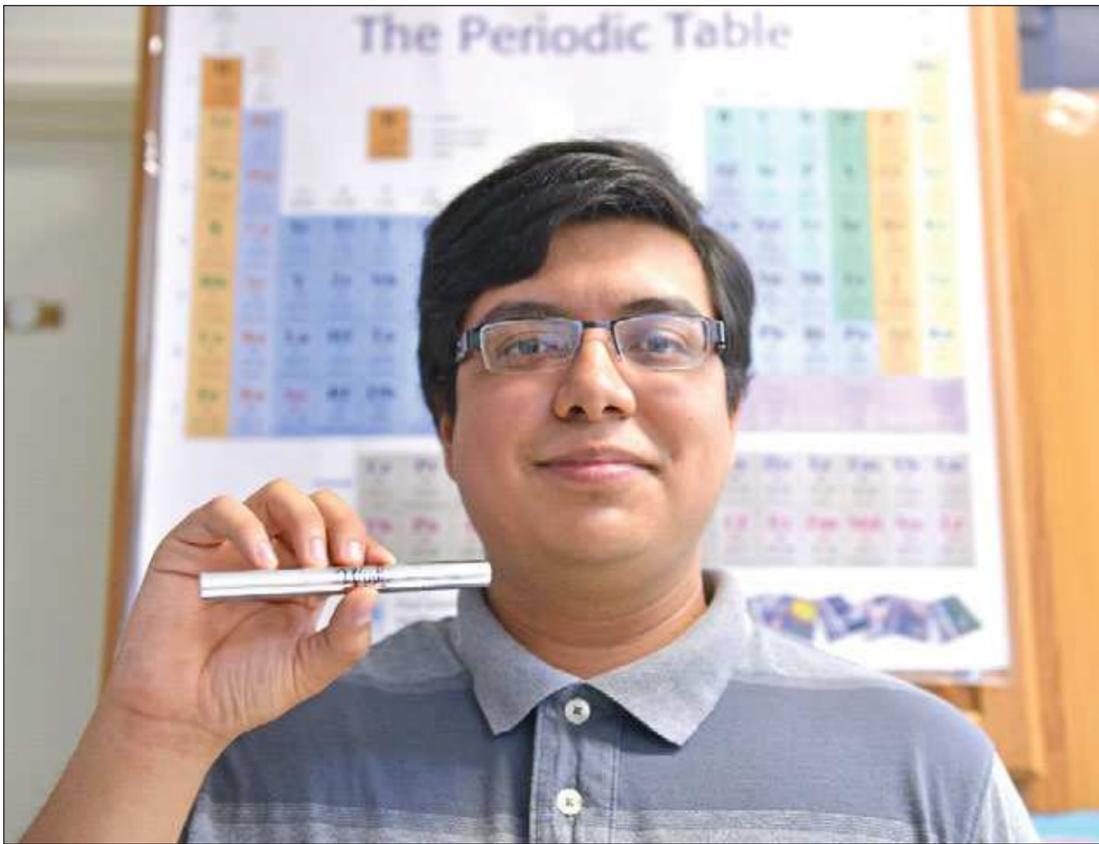


U.S COAST GUARD

Mexican fishing vessels seek safe harbor Sunday ahead of Hurricane Ingrid in the Port of Brownsville. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection crews escorted 53 Mexican shrimping vessels into the Port of Brownsville Saturday and another 32 Mexican vessels on Sunday.

IN A WINK

Brownsville native sees opportunity in all-natural product



MIGUEL ROBERTS/THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

MIT student, Miguel Salinas of Brownsville, holds up a bottle of Wink's eyelash serum. Salinas helped design the website and bottle for the company.

BY GARY LONG
THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Megan Cox had given up on eyelash extensions as too expensive and troublesome but still liked having her lashes longer, so she developed a natural alternative that some people who have tried it say really works.

Cox is a business student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who used her science background to find a hormone-free way to coax her eyelashes into growing longer.

After a year of research involving herself and her friends, and two controlled testing trials last spring, the product made its way to market earlier this sum-

mer as Wink eyelash and eyebrow enhancer.

One of Wink's most ardent adherents is fellow MIT student Miguel Salinas of Brownsville, who took part in the testing trials and ended up a partner in the business. Salinas is a 2010 graduate of St. Joseph Academy by way of Guadalupe Regional Middle School.

"I'm in charge of aesthetics and design. I did the website and the bottle. She's in charge of operations," Salinas said recently before heading to Boston for the start of fall semester classes.

"We told her she should make a business," Salinas said of learning about Cox's experiments and the potential for a viable product.

"She tested it on other people including me. I did the trials and it works. It not only gives you longer eyelashes, it gives you more of them. It awakens your dormant follicles."

PLEASE SEE WINKS, A10

ONLINE POLL

Do you use all-natural products exclusively?
To respond, log on to www.BrownsvilleHerald.com.

Grant funds task force

New team to combat money laundering

BY MARK REAGAN
THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

In 2010, a national money-transferring company settled a lawsuit with Arizona and agreed to pay \$94 million to the state.

Cameron County District Attorney Luis V. Saenz said as part of that settlement — in which the company, Western Union, admitted no wrongdoing — \$50 million went to supporting law enforcement agencies in border states.

"The state of Arizona, three or four years ago, filed a huge lawsuit against Western Union accusing them of knowing what was going on and looking the other way," Saenz said, adding that the company was accused of turning a blind eye to money laundering activities.

The Cameron County District Attorney's Office and the Brownsville and Harlingen police departments will be the third group of border agencies to receive grant funds, namely \$2.295 million, from that lawsuit through the newly-created Financial Asset Seizure Team (FAST).

The Arizona-based Southwest Border Anti-Money-Laundering Alliance awarded the grant.

PLEASE SEE TEAM, A8

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Amusements.....	B10	Comics.....	B9	Entertainment.....	B11	Weather.....	B12
Calendar.....	A7	Community.....	A7	Horoscope.....	B10		

High 87°

Low 78°



RIO GRANDE VALLEY

TEAM

FROM PAGE A1

The multi-discipline task force is dedicated to the detection, identification, disruption, and dismantling of illicit financial networks and money laundering methods utilized by the Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations operating along the South Texas Border.

The task force will consist of analysts and investigators from the DA's office, the BPD and the HPD and an assistant district attorney will be tasked with prosecuting ensuing cases. Homeland Security Investigations and the Drug Enforcement Administration are also partners. Saenz said the DA's office is taking the lead in organizing the task force.

"Our border has historically been one of the largest corridors for drug smuggling and other illegal contraband into the United States," Saenz said. "It is equally a corridor for the smuggling of money into Mexico. FAST will address this problem head-on."

Because of where Cameron County is, the unit's area of responsibility covers multiple routes used by trans-national criminal organizations, commonly called cartels.

According to the grant, smugglers utilize and exploit the seaport environment, the Rio Grande and other international ports of entry in an effort to mingle drug and money shipments with legitimate north and southbound traffic.

"The advent of NAFTA caused Brownsville, the largest city in Cameron County, to become one of

the largest inland ports of entry from Mexico into the U.S. — nearly 10,000 trucks cross the border daily, which represents nearly \$140 billion in trade between the two nations," a grant overview states.

And the goal, Saenz said, is to strike at the heart of the cartel's activities: cash flow.

"And of course we've got all these seizures every day of kilos and pounds, hundreds of pounds of illicit drugs," Saenz said. "Another way, just as deadly to them, is to take their capital. Any business, be it legitimate or illegitimate, lives and dies on capital. So on the front end you can take their product, which is the seizures. On the tail end you can take money, which is their proceeds."

And while the strategy isn't new, some of the methods authorities are trying to stop are new, and

more sophisticated.

"They keep up with the technology that's out there. In the past, you had, in the worst cases, you literally had U-Hauls leaving Atlanta, leaving Chicago, leaving Los Angeles and Houston, filled with money, bulk cash," Saenz said. "Obviously, fast-forward to 2013 and you're in the age of money cards. You're in the age of debit cards. You're in the age of going down to a business and purchasing a money card."

But just as criminals become more sophisticated, so does law enforcement.

"The illicit enterprises have kept up with technology and we're using the same technology to keep up with them. So this is totally different," Saenz said. "This is not pulling over a car on the street. This is not knocking doors down. At some point we may do that. This is highly

technical."

But the goal is to dry up cartel cash flow because then they can't buy any more drugs to smuggle.

"The bad guy at some point has to pay money to another bad guy for the drugs. So to the extent that he doesn't have that money to buy the drugs would be an effort to put a dent in their trafficking," he said. "It's not a new strategy. It's just taken a new twist to the extent that it's not as crude anymore."

And the taskforce will be looking closely at some businesses in Cameron County.

"There are different stores in Brownsville, in Harlingen, in the Valley, that for the most part those stores do the bulk of their work through food stamps, through Lone Star cards," Saenz said. "There's very little cash flow and yet the money express department in

there, the money department, does a monthly rate of over a quarter-million dollars of money that is being sent south."

And Saenz said he believes the taskforce will be successful and eventually be able to exist without the grant funding.

"We expect to be successful and as a result seize some monies and any monies that are seized are going to be divided up by the three state partners," he said. "The idea is at the end of two years we'll have seized enough money that we will be able to survive with the monies that we've seized."

Twenty-five percent of seizures will go back to the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance for grants to other law enforcement agencies on the border to do the same thing.

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WINKS

FROM PAGE A1

Salinas said he and Cox were already friends when the possibility of starting a business presented itself.

"I had about half decided to do this back in February when Miguel became one of the first testers," Cox said. "He believed in the product even more than I did. ... He said, 'I can do the design work for you.' ... His work is so good."

Cox also said Salinas had the best results among the testers, with about a 40 percent increase in eyelash length when others were getting 20 percent eyelash growth.

"I saw the results and I said, 'This thing totally works. I'll do it,'" Salinas said of signing on to the project.

Cox said the amount of money the two have invested amounts to "the little bit of money we had saved up as college students working."

She said other products for eyelash growth use hormones. Latisse, a prescription product, can have the side effect of changing the pigmentation in a person's eyes, for example from blue to brown, she said.

During the time she was testing her mixtures on herself, "my boyfriend was starting his own company," Cox said. "He said, 'I've seen your eyelashes go from tiny to robust. You really need to market this. You should be out making a company.'"

Wink comes in a tube. It is a liquid applied at the eyelash line. According to www.winknaturalcosmetics.com four out of five of those who tested it found that their eyelashes grew 10 percent to 20 percent longer. However, all

participants experienced fuller lashes, so Cox said it was natural to try out Wink on eyebrows, which also grew fuller.

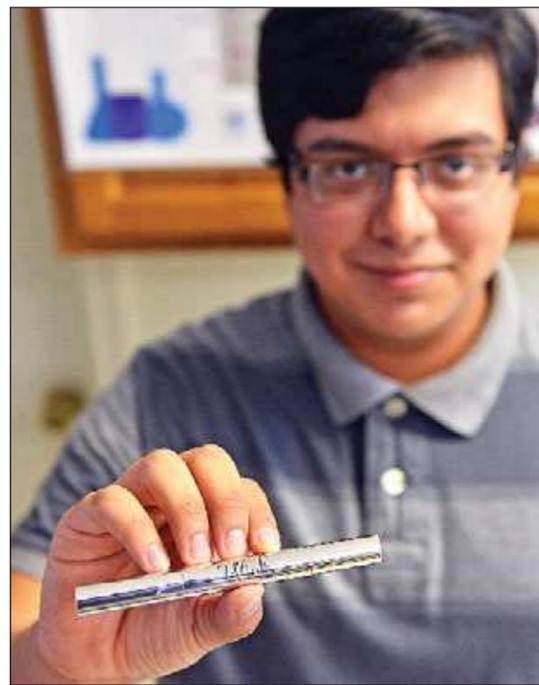
She said one of the biggest hurdles in getting Wink to market was finding a supplier willing to produce smaller quantities, "but now, we give them our formula and they manufacture it according to our specifications."

Sales are running in the hundreds, Cox said, adding that "we're already hearing back from customers that the product works, so I'm pleased about that."

Going forward, Cox and Salinas said their goal is to get their product into every beauty salon in America.

"We want to offer natural cosmetic solutions to problems that women have given up on," Cox said. "I have two or three ideas for the future but I don't want to give it away just yet."

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MIT student, Miguel Salinas of Brownsville, is a 2010 graduate of St. Joseph Academy by way of Guadalupe Regional Middle School. Salinas is in charge of website and aesthetics for the company.

MIGUEL ROBERTS/ THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

INGRID

FROM PAGE A1

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College both said classes would be held as scheduled.

Both schools asked students to keep an eye on their websites for the latest information.

Meanwhile, officials said the Cameron County Courthouse would remain open for business but that jury duty was canceled.

Hurricane Ingrid likely will bring less rainfall to the Rio Grande Valley than earlier expected, the National Weather Service in Brownsville says.

Ingrid was expected to make landfall early this morning north of Tampico, Mexico, with much of the moisture associated with the storm also likely to stay south of the border, NWS meteorologist Blair Scholl said Sunday afternoon.

The Valley can still

expect from 3-5 inches of precipitation as rain bands from the storm begin arriving here sometime after the storm makes landfall, Scholl said. Earlier, when Ingrid was still a tropical storm, as much as 7 inches of rainfall had been predicted for Brownsville. That changed when the storm intensified.

"When the system became a hurricane, most of the moisture stayed around the cyclone itself, so most of the heavier moisture is going to be in Mexico," Scholl said. "Three to five inches is probably the better bet for down here (in Brownsville), and then it decreases as you go north."

While Ingrid's rain

bands should start producing rainfall here after the storm makes landfall, the Valley already has been receiving precipitation indirectly related to the storm. Scholl said these are the short, often intense, rain storms that have been happening over the past several days, which are caused by tropical moisture being pulled

north from the southern Gulf of Mexico.

Meanwhile, swells from Ingrid are combining with strong high tides to produce coastal flooding and high surf at beaches along the lower Texas coast, including those on South Padre Island and at Boca Chica Beach.

The high seas also forced Mexican fishing

vessels to take refuge at the Port of Brownsville.

U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection crews escorted 53 Mexican shrimp-

ing vessels into the port on Saturday and were escorting another 32 Mexican vessels into port on Sunday to wait out the storm.

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